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Starting of new industries.

* 1518 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to clause (e) of question No. 651 answered on 26th November 1928—

(a) the various new industries that the Director of Industries is intending to start; and

(b) the probable capital and annual cost of each?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given on 29th November 1928 to clause (e) of question No. 812 asked by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. The Director of Industries has been asked to work out in sufficient detail a definite programme of experiments with information as to when each of the experiments will be undertaken, the probable period required for each experiment to reach the stage of production on factory scale, the staff necessary for the conduct of each and the annual expenditure likely to be entailed in undertaking the experiments. This report is awaited. During the year 1929-30 it is proposed to conduct in the Government Industrial Institute, Madras, experiments in the manufacture of lampblack, the capital and recurring expenditure on which is estimated at Rs. 2,000 and 1,000 respectively.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Is it intended to make new discoveries first and then start those industries, or do they want to popularize the industries already existing ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" There is no idea of discovering any new industries now."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" I understand that experiments are being made with regard to certain industries, which may be successful or not. Are the Government not going to encourage and popularize the industries already in vogue? Is it not the object of the department to popularize the existing industries ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" That is what they are trying to do."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Are the Government going to start any new industries ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The matter is under consideration."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" For how long ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" As soon as we get the report from the Director of Industries, the matter will be considered."

Work done by the water diviner.

* 1519 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any water diviner was appointed by the Government for some time;

(b) if so, for what period;

(c) at what salary;

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(d) what is the nature of work he was doing during the period he was in service; and

(e) whether the Government propose to retain his services permanently?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Nine months.

(c) Rupees 150 per mensem with a fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem.

(d) He was employed in connexion with the survey of underground water by the Industries Department in certain villages in the Bellary firka. His work consisted in indicating likely sites for boring thereby minimising the number of unsuccessful borings. The diviner makes a general survey of the whole area and indicates roughly with the use of his divining rod the direction of the underground water-courses, if any. He also indicates the particular places where the currents are strongest. Such places are carefully marked and subsequently boreholes are put down on the sites.

(e) No.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know how far the services of the diviner during the past have been helpful to the department and whether he has been able to correctly divine the source of underground water-supply or not?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether any appreciable results have accrued from the experiments conducted by the diviner?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

Dr. B. S MALLAYYA:—"May I know what the qualifications of this diviner are? Was he trained in any Government institution?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"He is a retired Forest Officer knowing something of divining."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I ask how many borings were successful and how many were unsuccessful?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU:—"Will the Government be pleased to place a record of the actual work done by this diviner on the table of the House?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I ask whether we cannot retain the services of this man?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"His services have already been terminated."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU:—"Why?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"His term of appointment has already expired."

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Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I ask whether we cannot appoint him again ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" If there is necessity, we will do so."

Experiments in extracting oil from oil seeds.

* 1520 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to question No. 686 answered on 26th November 1928 regarding experiments in extracting oil from oil seeds—

(*a*) the nature and extent of experiments carried on by the Government ;

(*b*) the result of such experiments ;

(*c*) whether these results were published ; and

(*d*) whether it is proposed to start any mills to demonstrate to the public the results achieved by the Government ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to paragraphs 116 and 117 at pages 51–52 of the Administration Report of the Industries Department for the year ending 31st March 1928. The experiments with the Muller Oil Expeller are not yet complete and the Director has promised to report on their results as soon as the experiments are over. Systematic laboratory experiments were also conducted by the Superintendent, Kerala Soap Institute, with the Domag Oil Mill to compare the oil contents, etc., of the seeds as crushed in the mill and in the country chekku. The experiments have been completed and the Director will report shortly on their results.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government will consider these points as soon as the results are reported.

Excise

Reduction of the issue strength of country spirits as a measure of temperance reform.

* 1521 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have at any time considered the desirability of gradually reducing the issue strength of country spirits as a measure of temperance reform ; and

(*b*) whether any experiment has been conducted in any locality to watch the consumption of country spirits by reducing the issue strength ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) From time to time the Government have ordered a reduction of the issue strength of country spirits in various parts of the Presidency, as a measure of temperance.

Prohibition of the private possession of country spirits.

* 1522 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the desirability of prohibiting private possession of country spirits altogether in the taluks where the experiment of closure of all arrack shops has been in force as a measure of real and complete prohibition ?

A.—No.